

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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R 292059Z DEC 76  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8345  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
ALL EC CAPITALS 0284  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 38273

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, FR, HU  
SUBJ: GISCARD CURTAILING 1977 FOREIGN TRAVEL

REFS: A. BUDAPEST 4250. B. USNATO 7017.  
C. PARIS 18885. D. PARIS 3379.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: INDICATIONS POINT TO SALUTARY  
GISCARD DECISION TO CURTAIL FOREIGN TRAVEL IN 1977  
TO FOCUS ON DOMESTIC KNITTING. END SUMMARY.

2. WE NOTED WITH INTEREST EMBASSY BUDAPEST'S  
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REFTEL A REPORTING FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA' DECEMBER 17  
REFERENCE IN SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT TO "FORTHCOMING  
VISIT" OF GISCARD D'ESTAING TO HUNGARY IN 1977.

3. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN WAKE HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER  
LAZAR'S VISIT TO PARIS LAST JULY (REFTEL C) INDEED DID

AFFIRM THAT GISCARD AGREED TO VISIT HUNGARY AND THAT VISIT "COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE AUTUMN OF 1977."  
HUNGARIAN STATE SECRETARY RACZ REITERATED STRONG HUNGARIAN DESIRE FOR GISCARD VISIT DURING HIS DECEMBER 13-16 VISIT TO PARIS. UNFORTUNATELY, AS QUAI'S CHIEF OF AFFAIRS PUT IT, IN RESPONDING TO RACZ, QUAI HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO BACKPEDDLE ON MORE RECENT ELYSEE INSTRUCTIONS; SINCE, APART FROM CONSULTATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, GISCARD HAD DECIDED THAT THE INCREASINGLY URGENT DEMANDS OF THE DOMESTIC PRE-ELECTION SCENE IN FRANCE WOULD ONLY PERMIT HIM TO MAKE TWO FOREIGN BILATERAL VISITS IN 1977: ONE TO SAUDI ARABIA, TO WHICH FRENCH ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE, BECAUSE OF ENERGY, AND THE SECOND TO MALI BECAUSE OF FRANCE'S SPECIAL LINKS WITH FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. QUAI EMPHASIZES THAT ABSOLUTELY "FINAL" DECISION ON HUNGARY, AND PERHAPS OTHER VISITS, STILL NOT YET MADE BY ELYSEE. HOWEVER, AS OF NOW, IT WAS "MOST DOUBTFUL" THAT 1977 VISIT WAS IN CARDS. RACZ WAS THEREFORE GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT. QUAI'S STATEMENT, AFTER RACZ'S RETURN, MAY THEREFORE BE ONLY FURTHER HUNGARIAN EFFORT TO PRESS GISCARD INTO KEEPING, WHAT WAS CLOSE TO BEING, A COMMITMENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE GISCARD FREQUENTLY CHANGES HIS MIND, AND MAY STILL DECIDE TO MAKE HUNGARIAN AND PERHAPS OTHER VISITS, APPARENT DECISION TO LIMIT HIS FOREIGN TRAVEL AND TO FOCUS ON DOMESTIC ESSENTIALS IN 1977 WOULD SEEM TO MAKE GREAT SENSE. GISCARD'S PERIPATETIC STATE-VISITING HAS PRODUCED DECREASING CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL DIVIDENDS IN FRANCE. HIS FREQUENT ABSENCES HAVE, ON CONTRARY, PROJECTED CERTAIN ADVERSE IMAGE OF JUNKETEERING, IN PERIOD WHEN ACCELERATING PROBLEMS AT HOME REMAINED UNSOLVED. SPARSE FOREIGN TRAVEL PROGRAM FOR 1977 WOULD THEREFORE REFLECT BETTER ELYSEE APPRECIATION OF PRIORITIES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, AS NOTED ABOVE, THIS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT AFFECT CONSULTATIONS AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, INCLUDING CONTACTS WITH NEW US ADMINISTRATION, ABOUT WHICH, AS WE HAVE REPORTED ELSEWHERE, GISCARD REMAINS VITALLY CONCERNED. END COMMENT.

5. WE MIGHT ADD THAT GISCARD'S RELUCTANCE TO VISIT CANADA IN 1977 (REFTEL D) MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE DILEMMAS THE QUEBEC ISSUE WOULD INEVITABLY POSE FOR HIM. HOWEVER, THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS PROBABLY ALSO PLAYED A PART.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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